

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the ABSTRACT on page 18 with the following ABSTRACT.

A method, system and apparatus for maintaining a two-byte identification field of IP headers when a Gigabit Ethernet is in use are provided. Since the IP identification field is of two bytes, there is a limited number of identification numbers that may be used. Due to the high data transfer rate of the Gigabit Ethernet, this number may be reached within one second. Hence, there may be a possibility that two or more packets may have the same identification number while in transit. In a representative embodiment, one identification number is used for packets that may not be fragmented; thus, freeing the rest of the numbers for packets that may be fragmented.